



Eastern Hutt School

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To Educate Every Child for Life

Junior Team Newsletter - Term 1 2022

Kia ora Parents and Whānau

A very warm welcome to all families in our Junior Team for 2022. An especially warm welcome to our 5 year olds beginning school for the very first time. Starting a new school year is always exciting for both children, teachers and whānau.

The Junior Teaching Team for 2021 is:

New Entrants/Year 1	Year 2
C1 Mrs Jacqui Graham (Team Leader)	B2 Mrs Jess Richardson (Team Leader)
C2 Mrs Louise Macdonald	B1 Mrs Fiona Kerr
C3 Ms Anne Prichard (beginning Term 2)	B6 Miss Rebecca Barkla
E4 Whaea Chelsey/Whaea Gen	D1 Ms Heather Chapple/Mrs Louise Harrington
E6 Whaea Angela	
E7 Mrs Erica Hatcliffe	

School Values

Our school values guide our learning and our experiences in the classroom and out in the playground:

- We choose **Respect/Whanaungatanga**
- We choose **Responsibility/Manaakitanga**
- We choose **Resilience/Wairua**

Curriculum Learning in Term 1

Learning about Learning

Children will learn about who they are as learners and explore how they learn best.

Children are encouraged to use a '*Growth Mindset*' - they will use phrases like "I can't do it yet" or "I will keep trying until I can do it". Students are encouraged to work together, make mistakes, try again and communicate their ideas, thoughts and feelings respectfully.

Learning through Play

The Junior Team focuses on learning through play. In all Junior classrooms children will be encouraged to create, explore, think, manage and connect through a variety of play based experiences. Our play based activities are integrated into all curriculum learning areas.

Play is a natural part of 5 and 6 year olds development. Play is hard work for busy little minds!

Inquiry

Inquiry learning is a process where students wonder, formulate questions, investigate, and then build new understandings that might be used to develop a solution or create an outcome. Inquiry learning allows us to learn about a range of curriculum concepts, and the world around us.

EHS Inquiry Cycle				
WE SEE AND WE WONDER What do we notice? What questions do we have?	WE EXPLORE, INVESTIGATE AND DISCOVER How could we find out? What sources could we use?	WE SHARE OUR THINKING How can we share our new skills and learning? Can we use our new skills and learning in other areas?	WE REFLECT We used to think.... Now I know.... What did we notice? What did we wonder?	WE ACT AND WE CHANGE How have we independently taken action?

This term the Junior Team Inquiry focus is all about the concepts of **'Identity' and 'Turangawaewae - Our place'**.

The key understandings we will focus on are;

- Discovering who we are as a person and how we interact with others in a class, school and wider community.
- Knowing how we learn best, our strengths and weaknesses.
- When we belong to a group we have different roles and responsibilities.
- People of different cultures live in our community.

Later on in the term, classes will be visiting the Petone Foreshore to find out more about the history and stories of our place and we will explore how those stories connect to our local area. Classes are also encouraged to follow their own mini inquiries that link to student's interests and passions.

Collecting Children

As we are now at Phase 1 of the Covid Protection Framework (CPF) - Red light children will need to be collected from the gate. It is important that you have talked to your child/children about which gate you will collect them from.

A reminder that we have scooter stands to store the children's scooters while they are at school. This saves cluttering corridors and cloak bays. You can lock scooters to the stands. We are unable to take responsibility for unsecured scooters.

Sunhats

Sunhats must be worn during outdoor activities and break times in Terms 1 and 4. Please ensure your child has a **named** sunhat at school **every day**. It is preferred that children have a **wide brimmed sunhat** that provides enough shade for their face, neck and ears. Caps and sun visors leave a child's face, neck and ears exposed to the sun's harmful rays during the hottest part of the day. Children without sunhats at school from Week 2 will spend their break times being supervised in the hall. Sunblock is provided and available to students in all classrooms.

No hat - No play - No fun today!

Book Care

A special plea to all families to take extra care of guided reading books that children bring home in their yellow bookbag. It is disappointing when readers are not returned, or come back to school damaged and wet. They are an expensive and precious resource for the Junior school, and an integral part of reading programmes in all classrooms. Please ensure your child has their yellow book bag with books at school every day.

Tissues

Could all children please bring a box of tissues to be kept in the classroom for shared use. This is especially necessary for the winter months.

Clothing and Footwear

Please label children's clothing, lunch boxes, drink bottles and swimming gear with their name and room number, so that children can be responsible for their personal belongings. Please ensure children wear sensible footwear for our daily fitness and exercise activities.

School Arrival

Classrooms are open to children from 8.30am. We are unable to guarantee supervision prior to this time, due to morning meetings and preparation commitments teachers have. It is unsafe to drop children off earlier. To help with settling into the school day it is a good idea to arrive with plenty of time to allow children to unpack their bags and settle into the classroom before the bell rings at 8.55am.

Parent Interviews

These will be held on Thursday 17th and Thursday 24th February. These meetings will not be onsite and you will be given the option of either a Google Meet or a phone call. We know this is a difficult time, and we want to proceed with these meetings to ensure you and your child's teacher have made contact. More information about these meetings will come out later this week.

Sickness and Hygiene

If your child is unwell, it is essential that you keep them at home until they are completely over their illness. This prevents other class members and teachers from also becoming ill. Regular hand washing and use of sanitiser happens throughout the school day. Please take time to teach your child to wash and dry their hands thoroughly. You might like to keep a small hand sanitiser in their school bag. Make sure you teach them how to use it sensibly. If your child is going to be absent, please remember to contact the school absentee phone line or use our texting service.

Emergencies

The school has food and water readily available to all children in the case of an emergency. It is stored safely in an easily accessible area. We have regular practices of fire and earthquake drills during the year, to ensure children know what to do in order to keep safe.

Nude Food/Healthy Lunch Boxes

We **encourage** and prefer reusable containers, homemade food, fresh fruit or vegetables and recyclable or reusable packaging. We **discourage** plastic wrap and single use bags or packaging.

Why have Nude Food Lunches?



This helps us to reduce rubbish, keep our school tidy, protect the environment and eat healthy food. We are one of four schools in the Wellington region to hold a green gold enviroschool award. We appreciate your support in helping us to maintain our enviro school beliefs and practices.

Dates for your Diary

Mon 14th - Fri 25th February	Kelly Sports Fundamental Skill Sessions
Thursday 17th & 24th February	Parent Interviews (via Google Meet or a phone call)
Thursday 14th April	Last day of Term 1
Friday 15th April	Good Friday (School closed)

Back to School - Settling in

The beginning of the school year is a busy time and can seem overwhelming for some junior children, especially those new to school. We know the children will be a little nervous as they get to know their new teacher and classmates, but also excited as well to begin school after the holiday break. Children may become tired at the end of the day, and need more time to rest and sleep during the first few weeks of the year.

If you have concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher first. As a team, we are there to support and encourage your child in their learning, and to ensure they feel happy and confident at school! We look forward to a fantastic first term at school for 2021!

Ngā mihi nui,

Junior Teaching Team